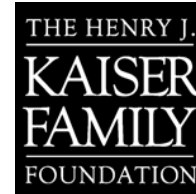

Chartpack



HARVARD
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

The Medicare Drug Benefit: Beneficiary Perspectives Just Before Implementation

November 2005

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Medicare Drug Benefit: Beneficiary Perspectives Just Before Implementation* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork by telephone by ICR/International Communications Research occurred between October 13 and October 31, 2005, among a nationally representative sample of 802 respondents 65 years of age and older. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Tricia Neuman, Sc.D., Erin Weltzien, and Michelle Kitchman Strollo, M.H.S. from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the overall survey. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

This survey is part of an ongoing effort to track seniors' views on the Medicare prescription drug benefit, which has included three earlier comprehensive surveys about Medicare and five tracking polls which included questions about the benefit. Trend data in this chartpack comes specifically from two tracking polls conducted August 4-8, 2005 and March 31-April 3, 2005.

“Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and results are available separately at www.kff.org

SECTION I:
**SENIORS' VIEWS ON THE NEW MEDICARE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

Seniors' Impressions of Medicare Drug Benefit

Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of this new Medicare prescription drug benefit?

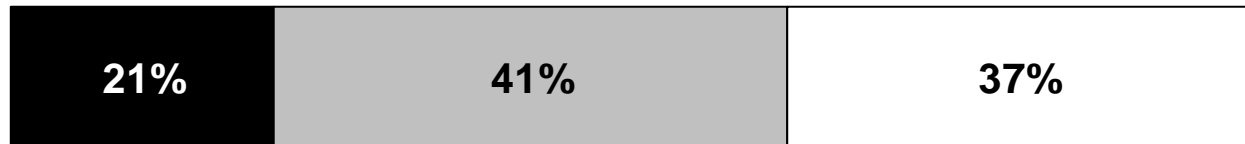
■ Favorable ■ Unfavorable □ Don't know



Seniors who say they understand the benefit "very" or "somewhat" well

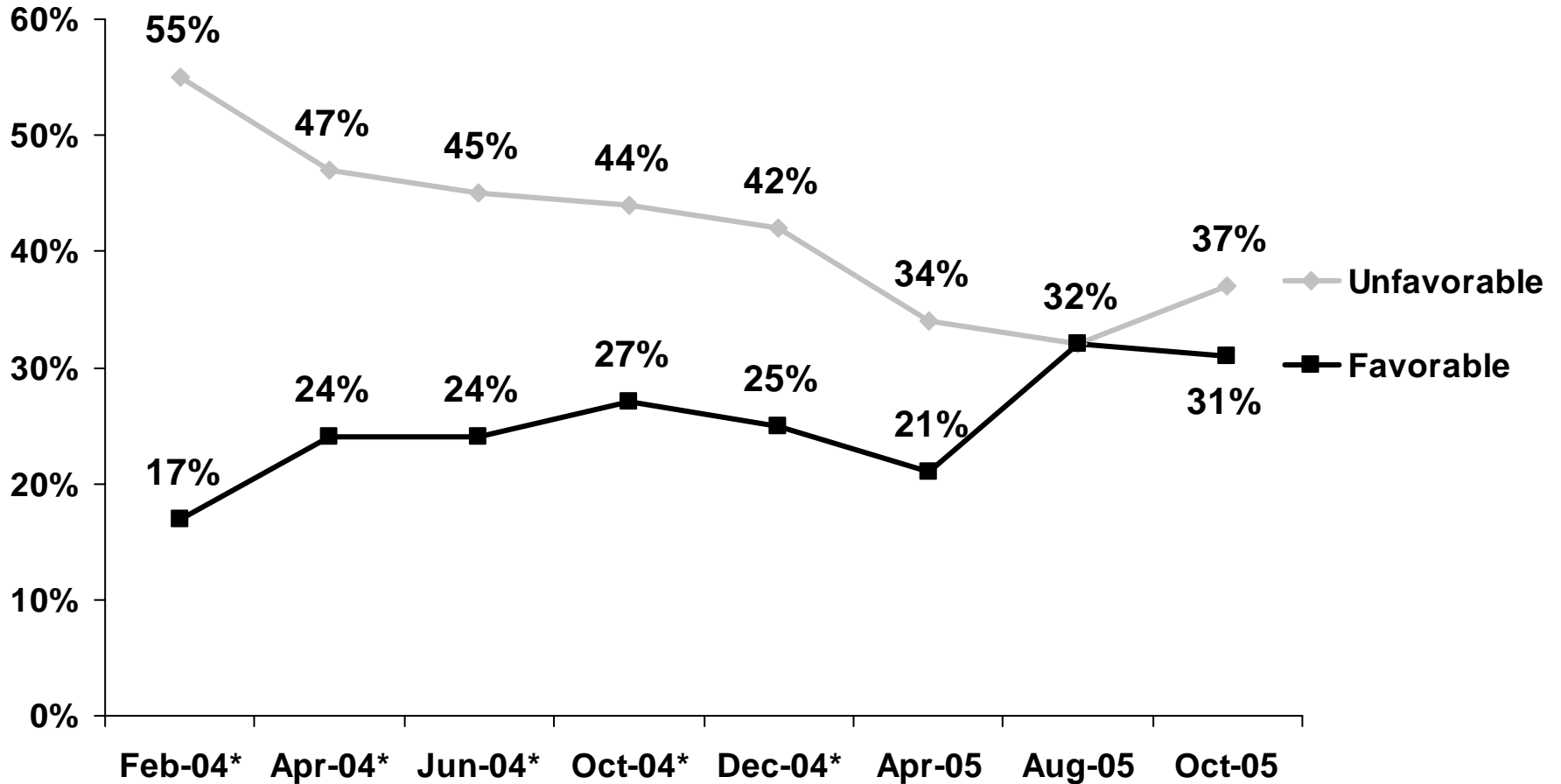


Seniors who say they understand the benefit "not too" or "not at all" well



Trends in Seniors' Impressions of Drug Benefit

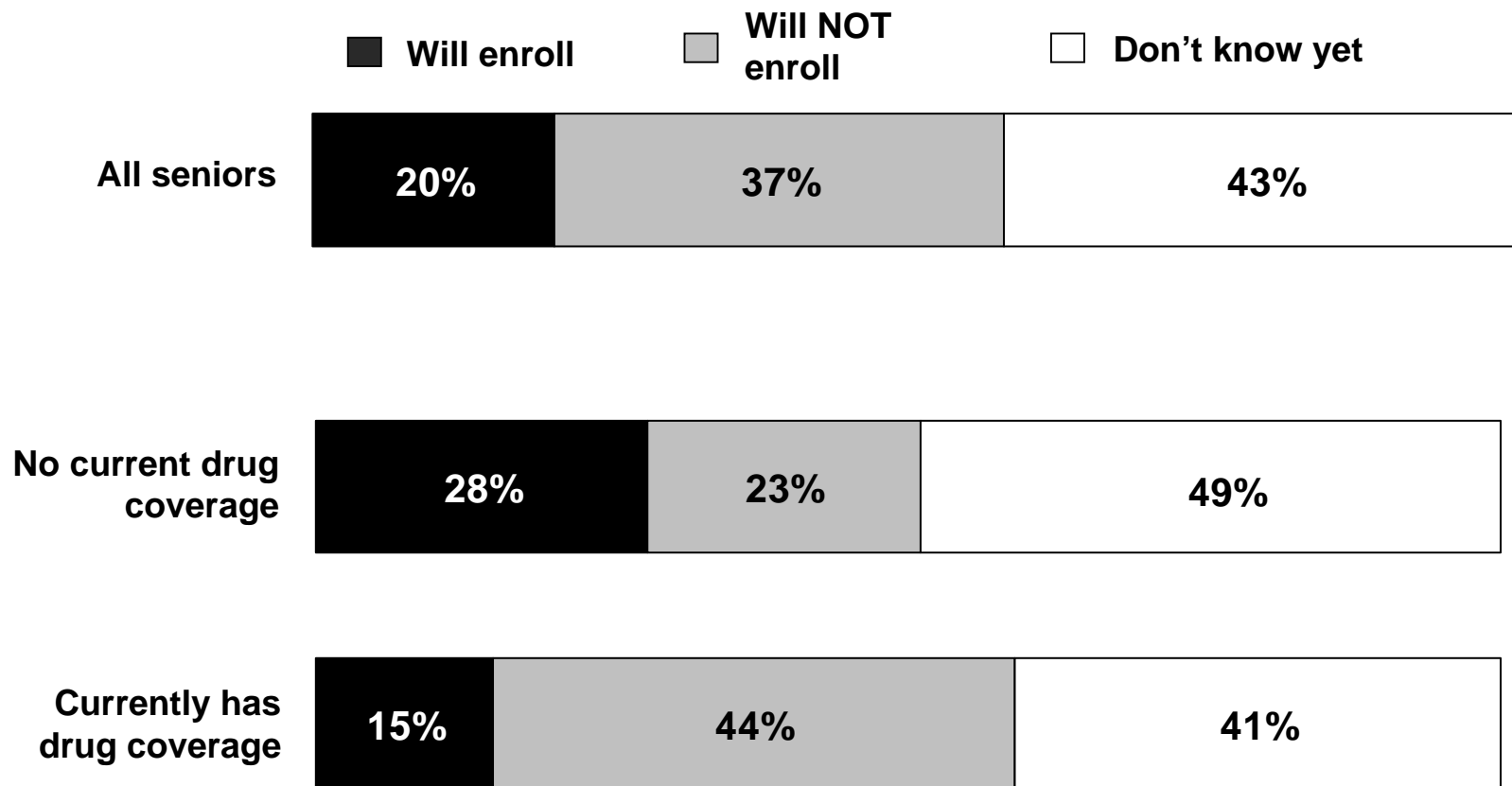
Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit?



* Question referred to "new Medicare prescription drug law"

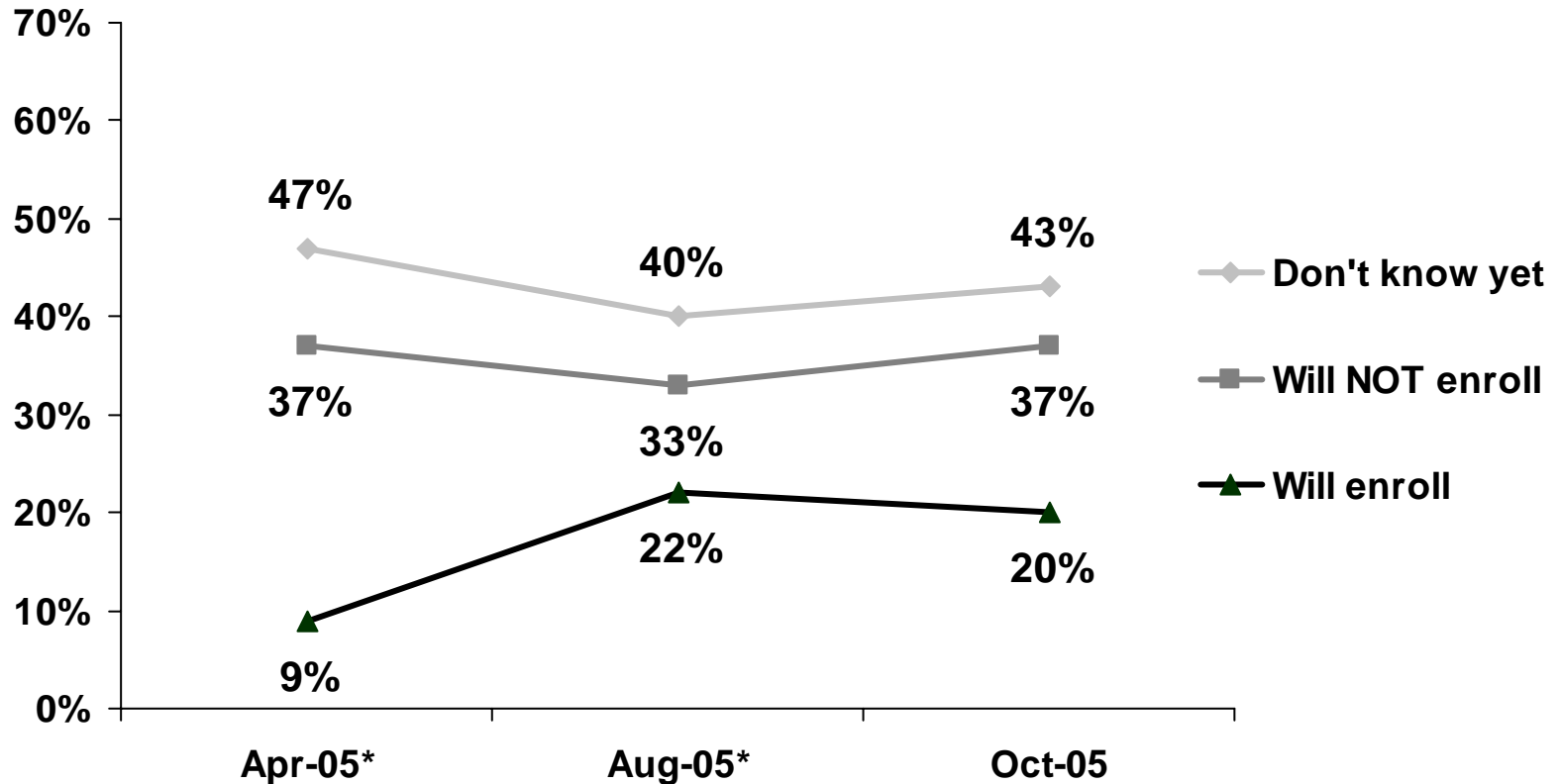
Reported Plans for Enrollment in 2006

Thinking ahead, do you think you will enroll in a Medicare drug plan for 2006, you will NOT enroll in a Medicare drug plan, or don't you know yet?



Trends in Reported Plans for Enrollment

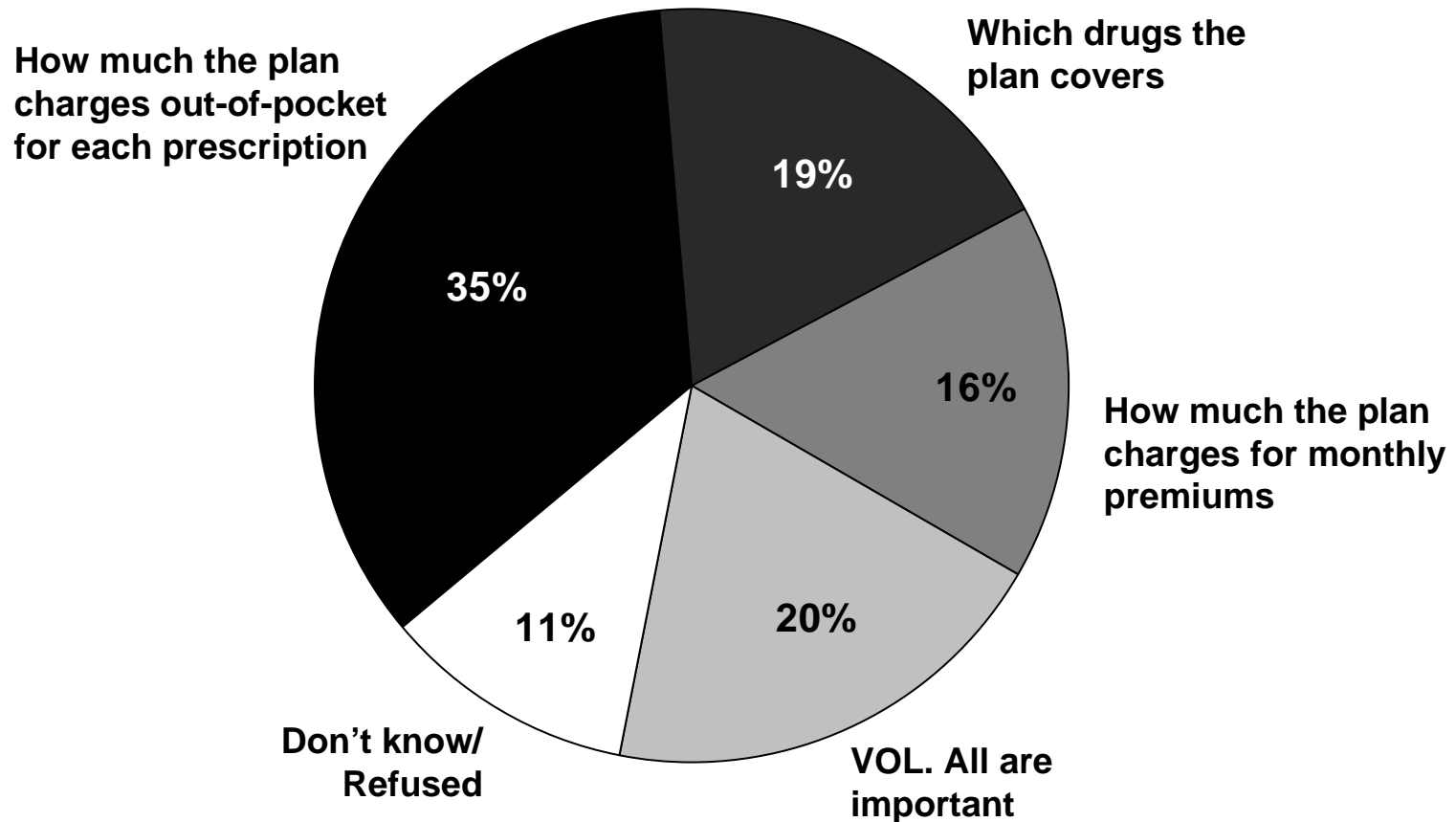
Thinking ahead, do you think you will enroll in a Medicare drug plan for 2006, you will NOT enroll in a Medicare drug plan, or don't you know yet?



*Question wording : "Thinking ahead to 2006 when the new Medicare drug benefit becomes available – do you think you will enroll in a Medicare drug plan, you will NOT enroll, or have you not yet heard enough to decide?"

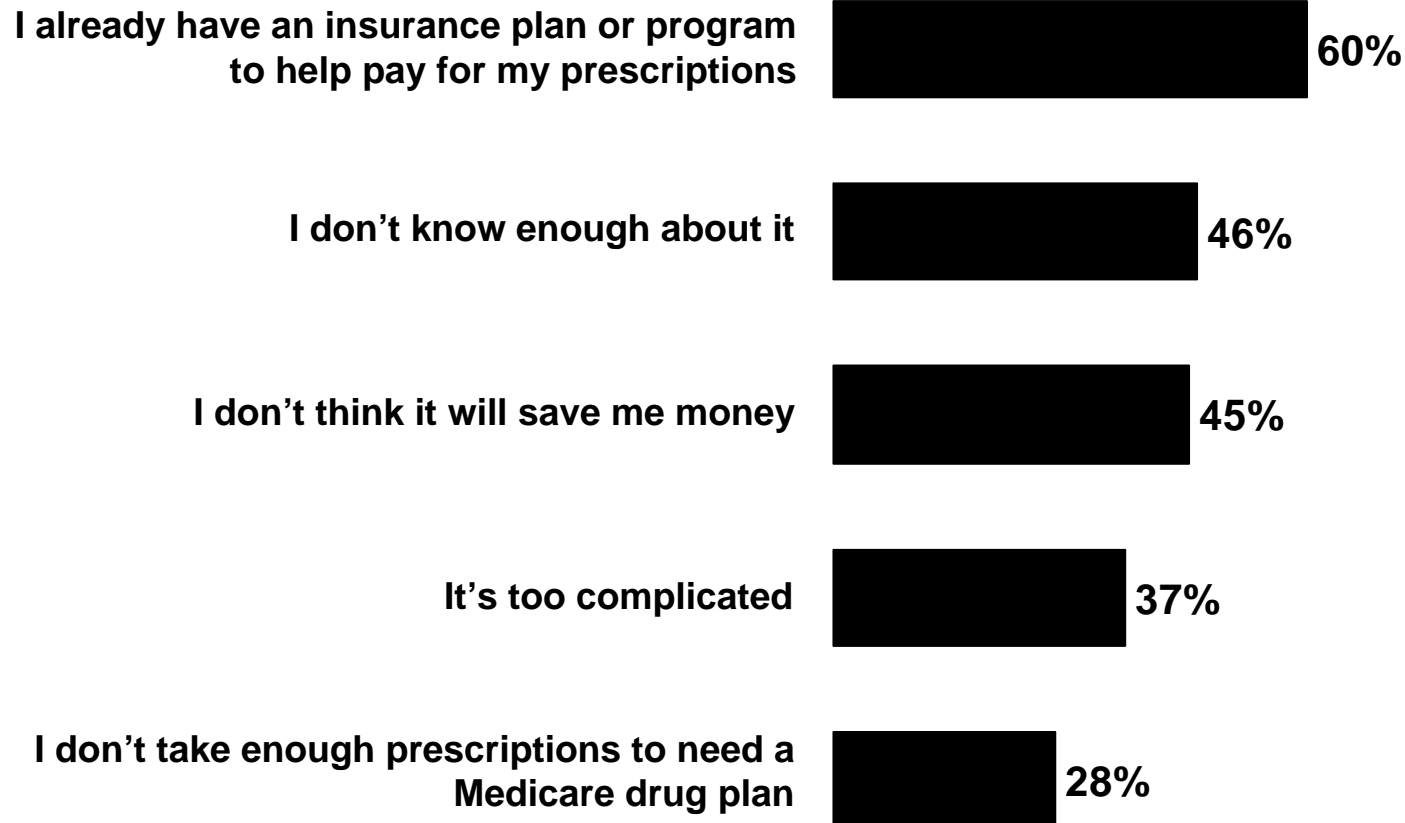
Most Important Factors in a Plan

Among the 20% of seniors who say they WILL enroll in a drug plan:
In selecting among different Medicare drug plans, which of the following is most important to you?



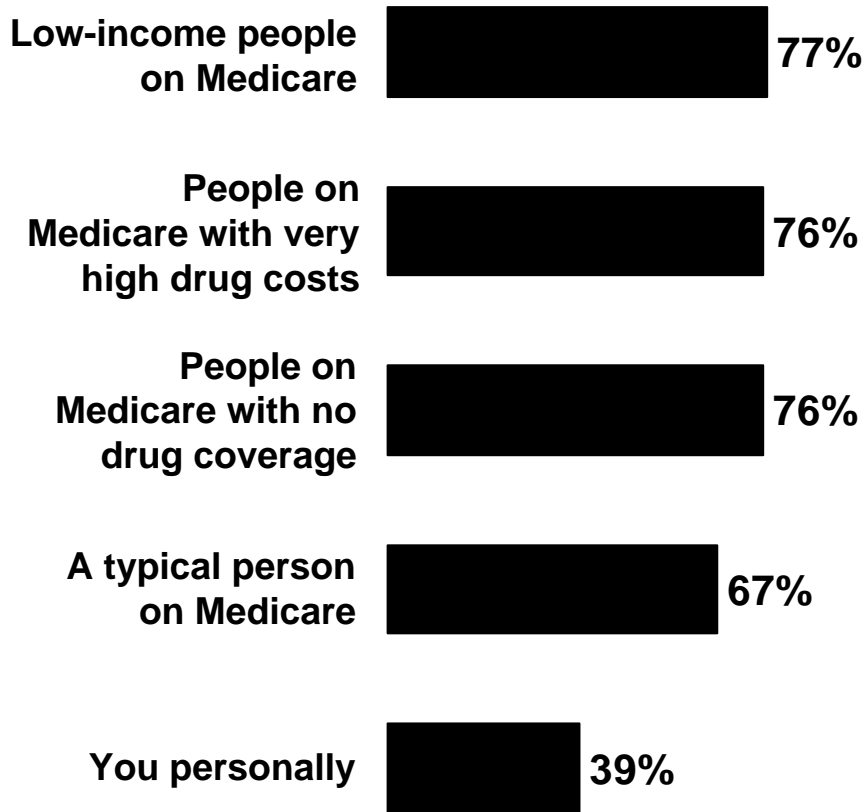
Reported Reasons for NOT Planning on Enrolling

Among the 80% of seniors who say they will NOT enroll or don't know if they'll enroll in a Medicare drug plan: Percent who say each of the following is a MAJOR reason...

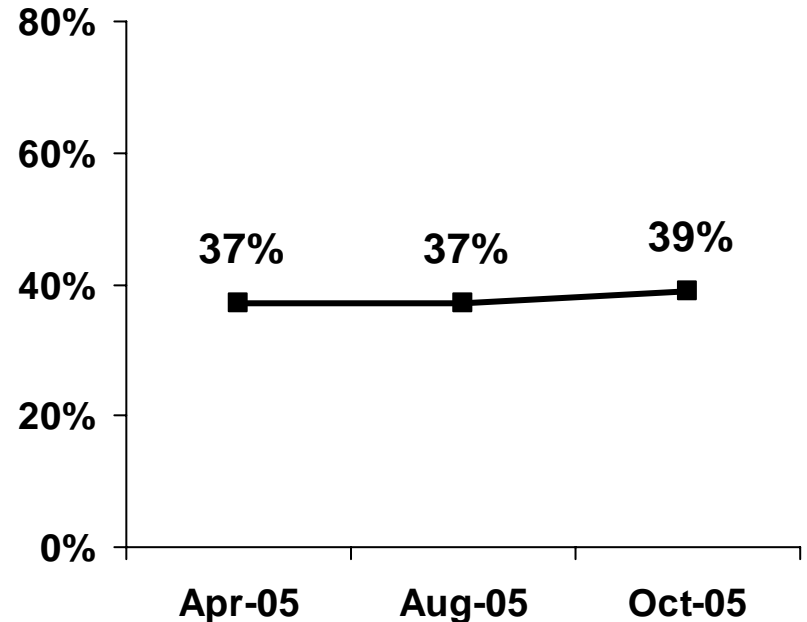


Perceived Helpfulness of Medicare Drug Benefit

Percent who say the new Medicare benefit will be “very” or “somewhat” helpful for each of the following...



Percent of seniors who say the new Medicare prescription drug benefit will be “very” or “somewhat” helpful to them personally...

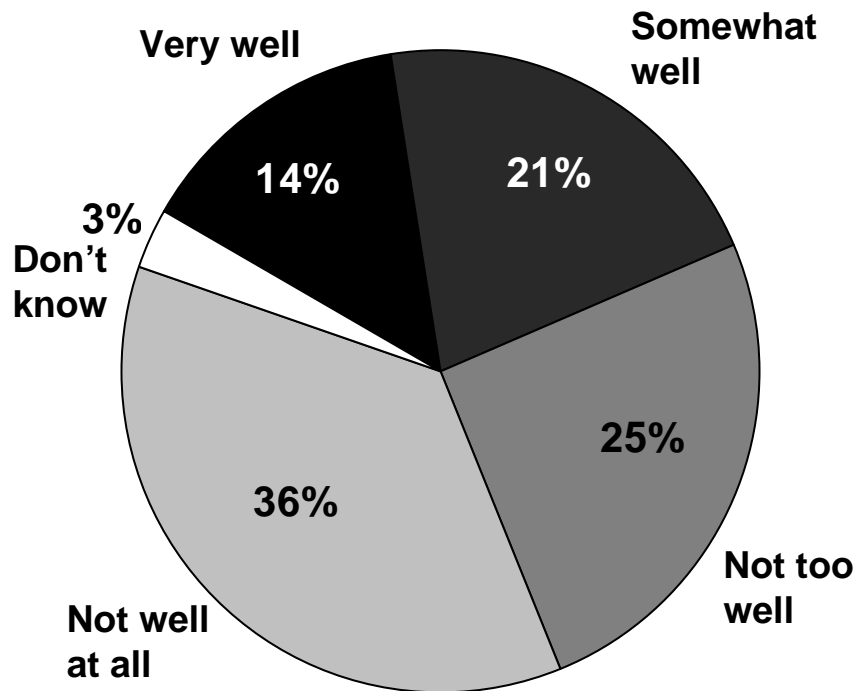


SECTION II:

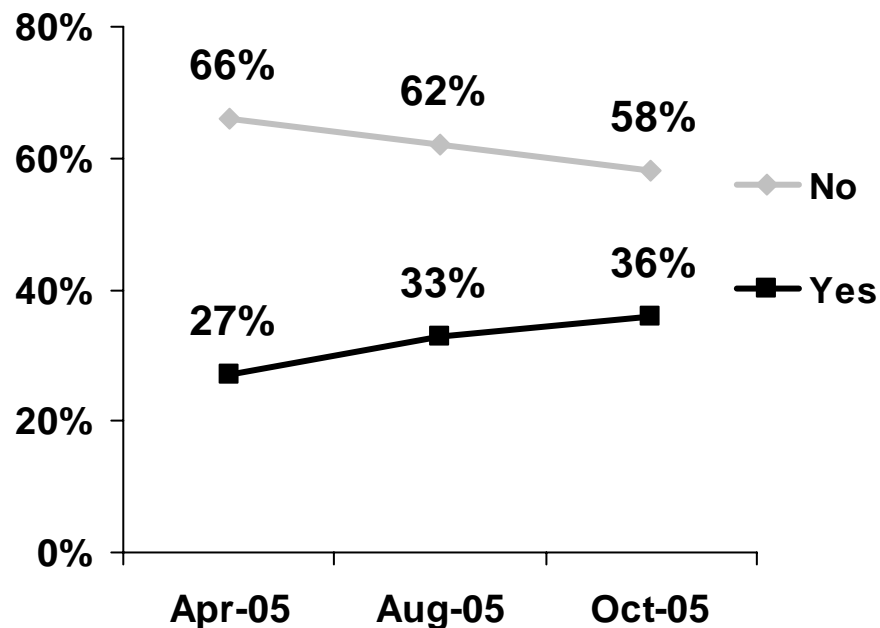
SENIORS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

Understanding of Medicare Drug Benefit

How well would you say you understand this new benefit?
(October 2005)



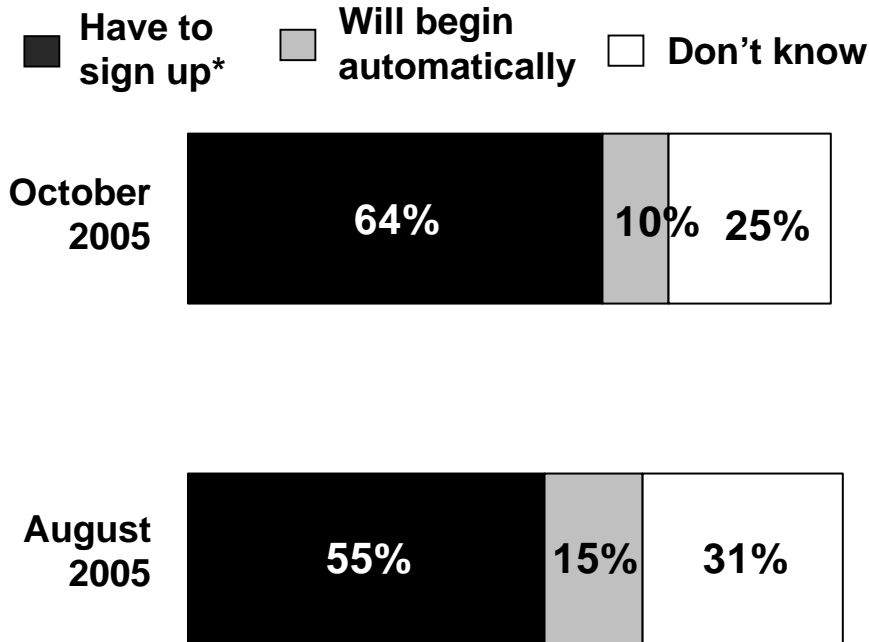
Do you feel you have enough information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?



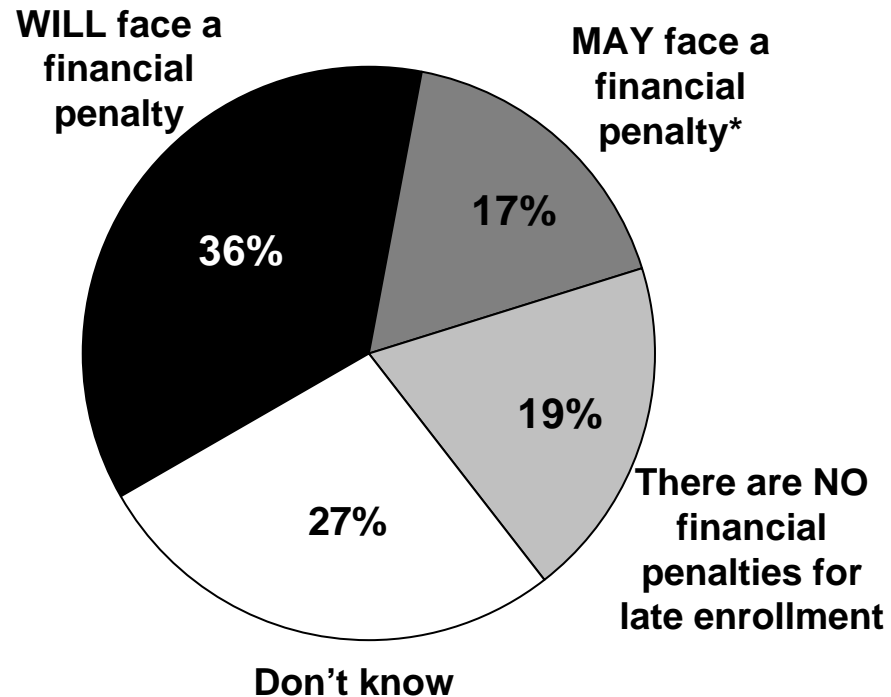
Seniors' Beliefs About Enrollment

To the best of your knowledge...

Do seniors generally need to sign up to get their new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or will coverage automatically begin by January 1, 2006?



If a senior does NOT sign up for a Medicare drug plan for 2006, but wants to enroll in a future year, which of the following is true? He or she...



*Correct answer

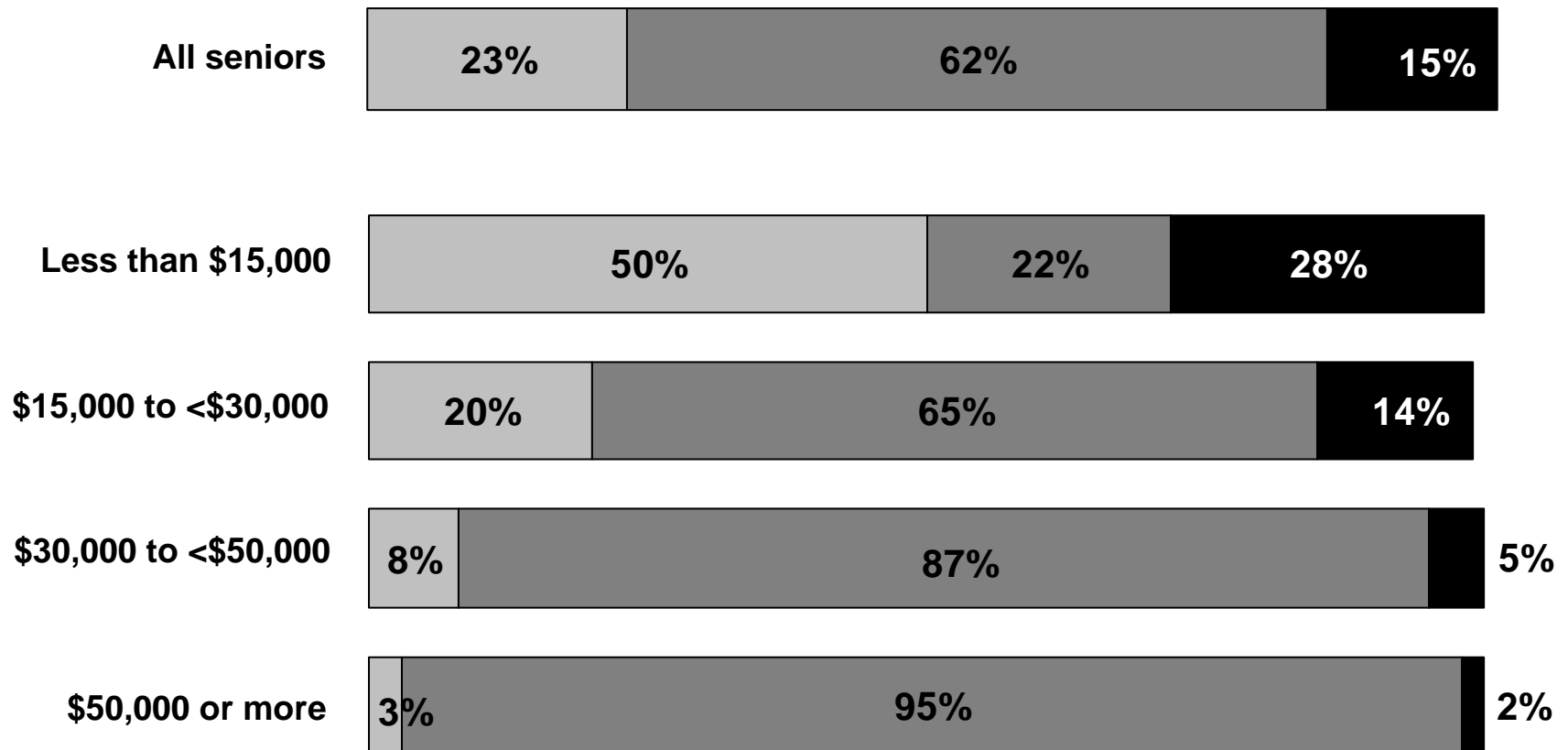
Note: In general, seniors have to sign up and enroll in a plan. However, dual eligibles and others determined eligible for low-income subsidies will be assigned to a plan if they don't enroll on their own.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Beliefs About Eligibility for Low-Income Subsidy, By Income

Do you think you might be eligible for additional financial help with prescription drug costs that is available from the government for certain low-income people on Medicare, or not?

Yes
 No
 Don't know



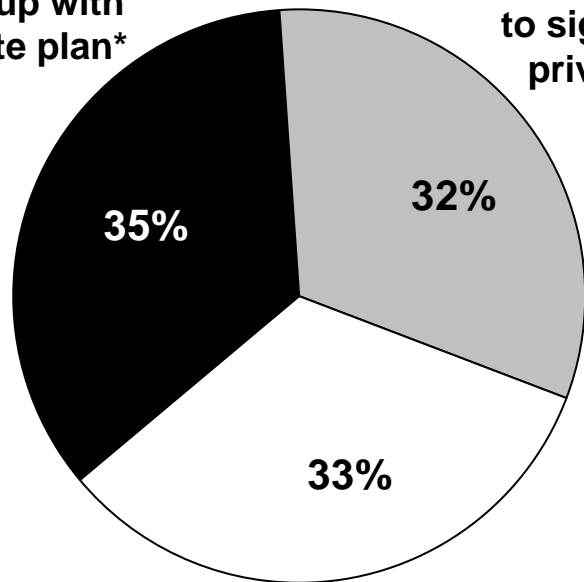
Understanding of How Benefit Will Be Administered

To the best of your knowledge...

Do seniors in the traditional Medicare program have to sign up with a private plan to get the new Medicare drug benefit, or not?

Yes, have to sign up with private plan*

No, don't have to sign up with private plan

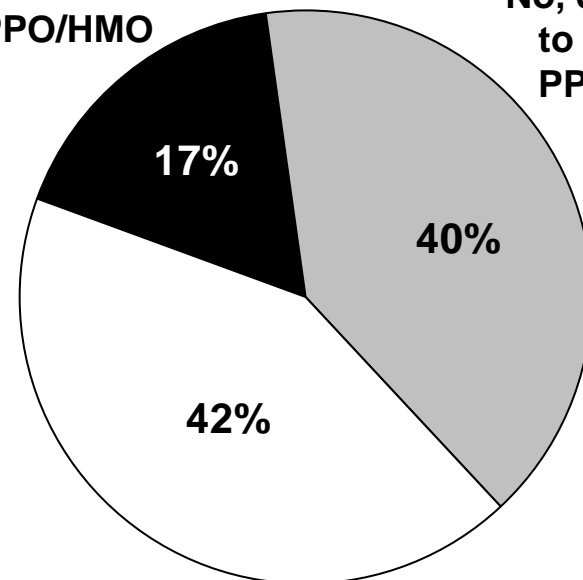


Don't know

Do seniors have to enroll in a Medicare PPO or HMO to get the new Medicare drug benefit, or not?

Yes, have to enroll in PPO/HMO

No, don't have to enroll in PPO/HMO*

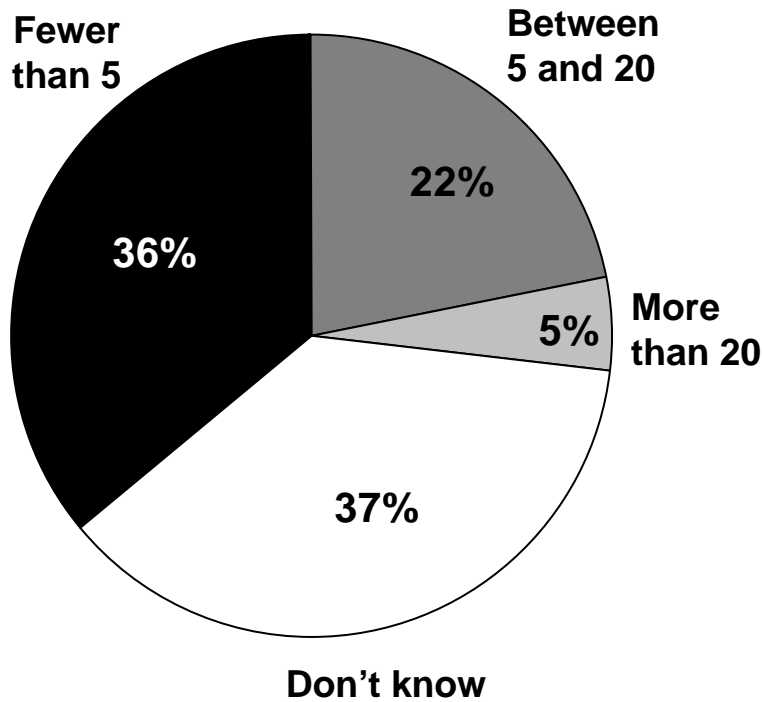


Don't know

*Correct answer

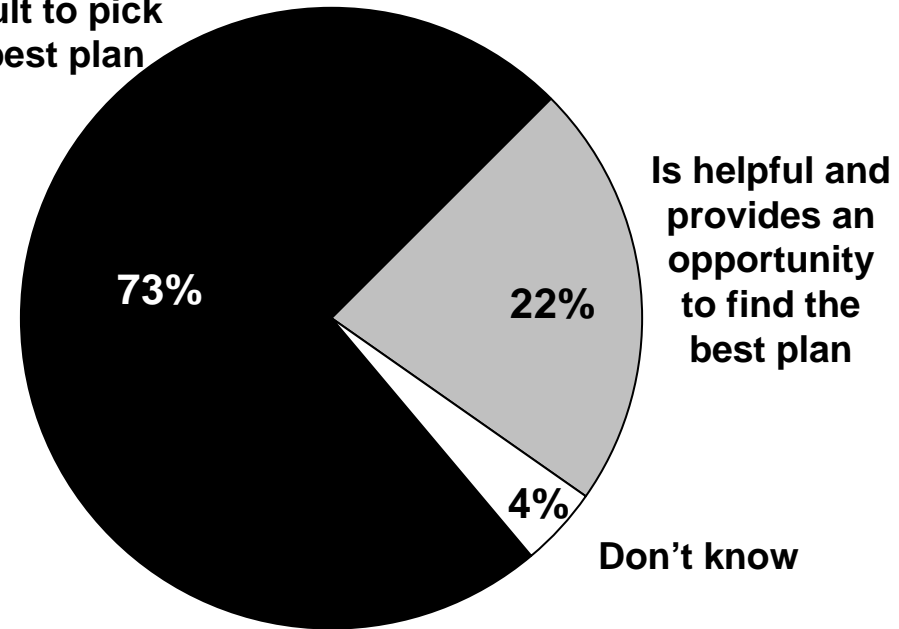
Beliefs About Number of Plans to Choose From

Just your best guess, how many drug plans do you think most people on Medicare will have to choose from?



The government has announced that most people on Medicare will have at least 40 different drug plans to choose from. Which comes closer to your view? Having many plans to choose from...

Makes it confusing and difficult to pick the best plan

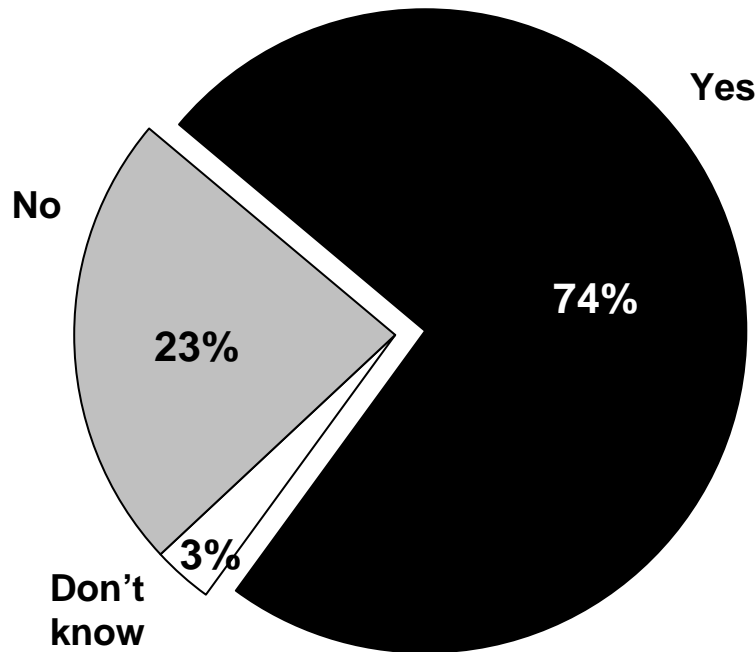


SECTION III:

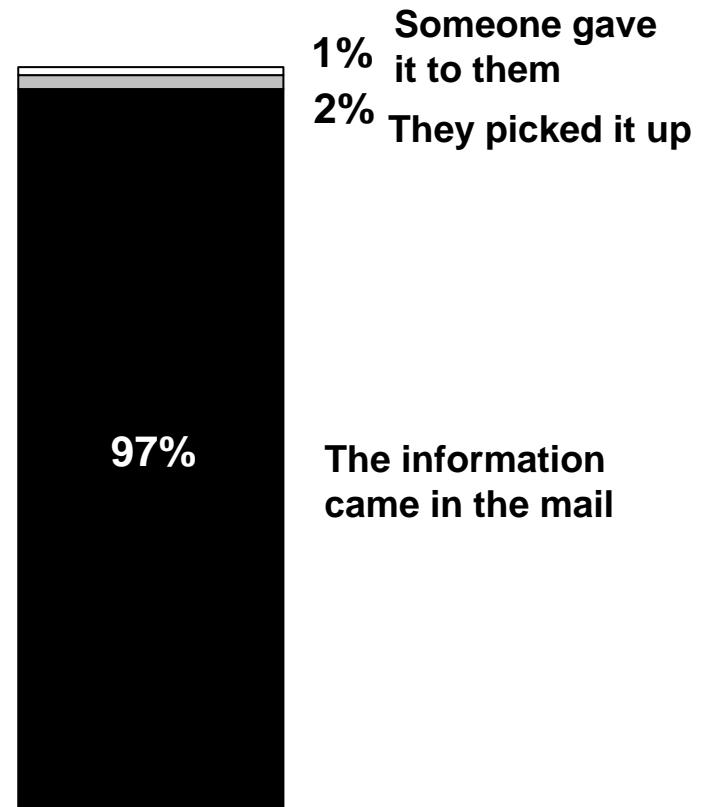
SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

Information About Medicare Drug Benefit

Have you received any information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or not?

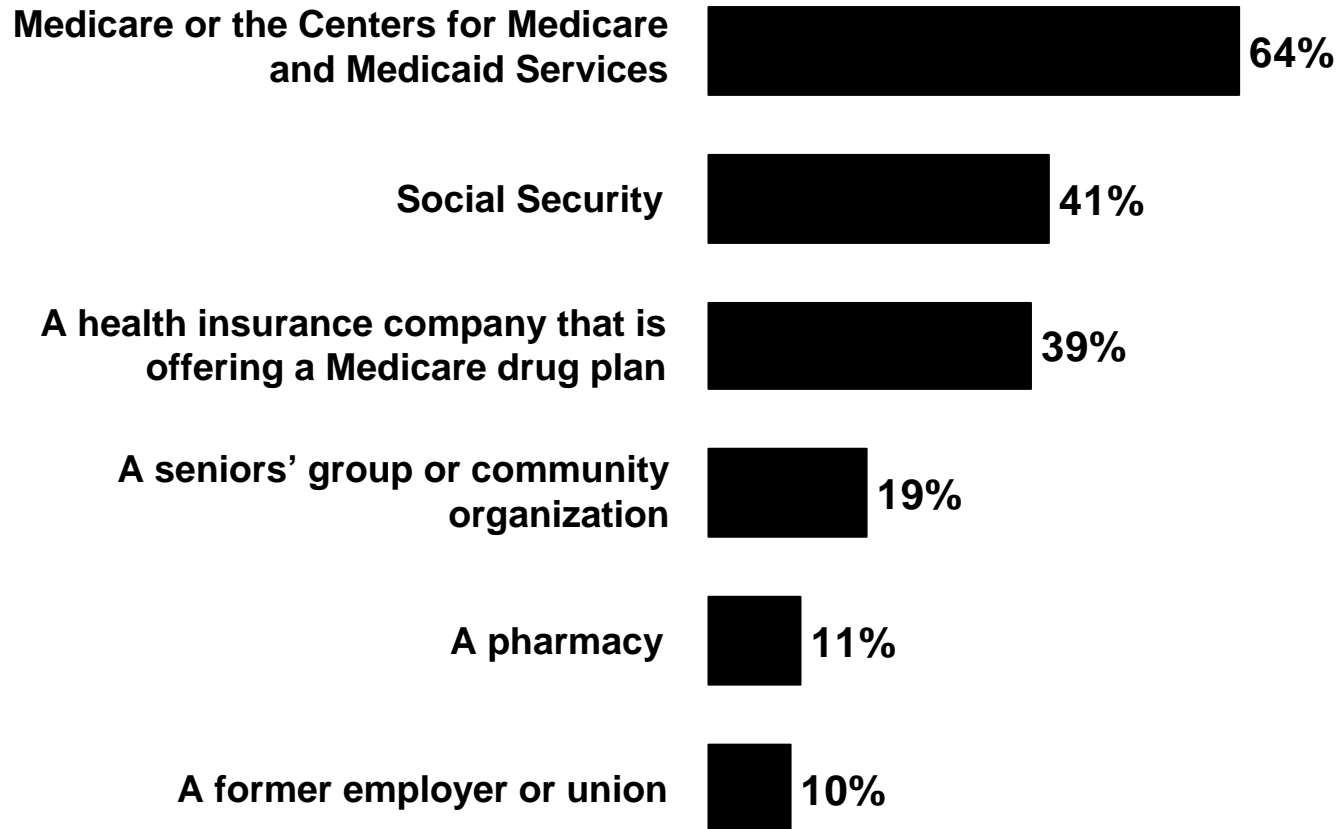


Among the 74% of seniors who say they received information: Percent who say...



Reported Sources of Information About Drug Benefit

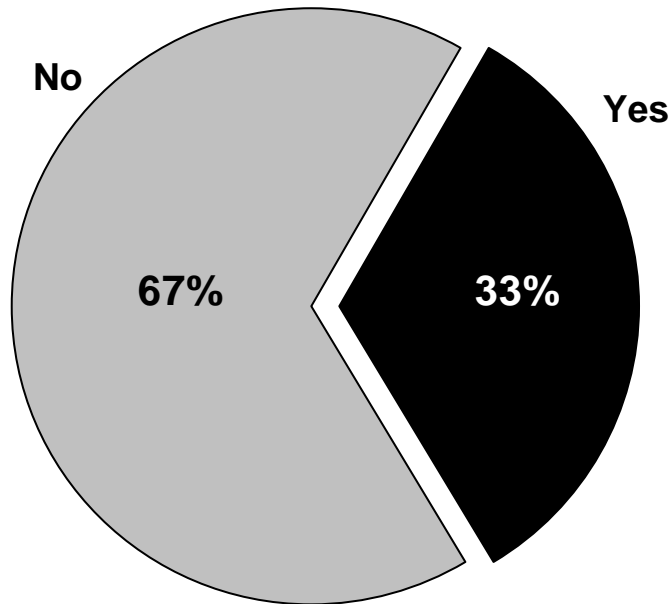
Among the 74% of seniors who say they received information about the Medicare drug benefit: Percent who say they received information from...



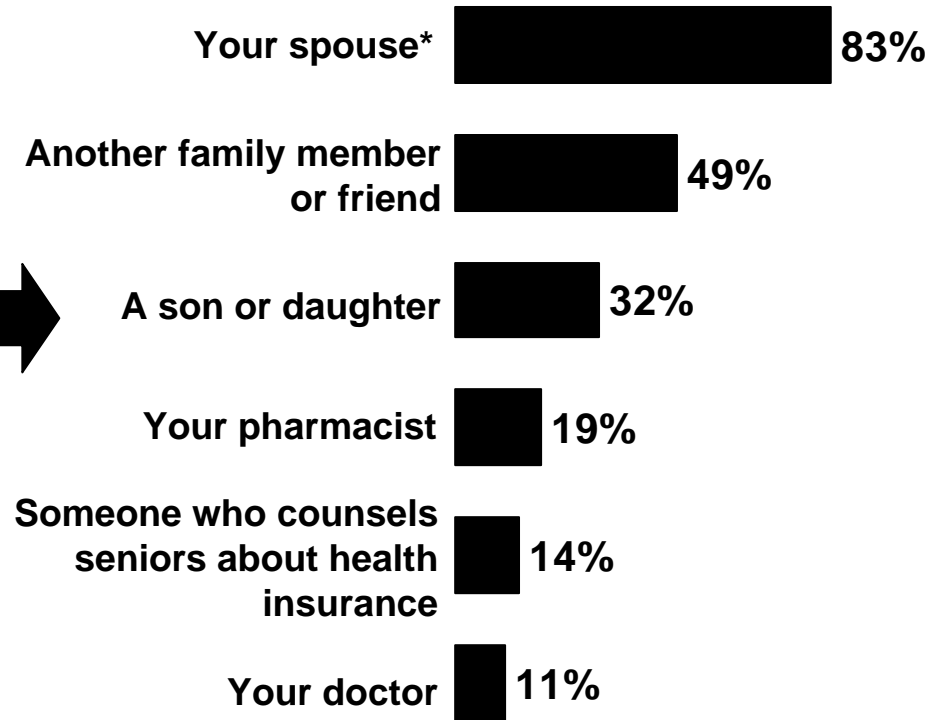
Attention to Information About New Benefit

Among the 74% of seniors who say they received information about the new benefit:

Have you talked to anyone about the information you received?



Among the 33% who say they talked to someone: Who did you talk to?



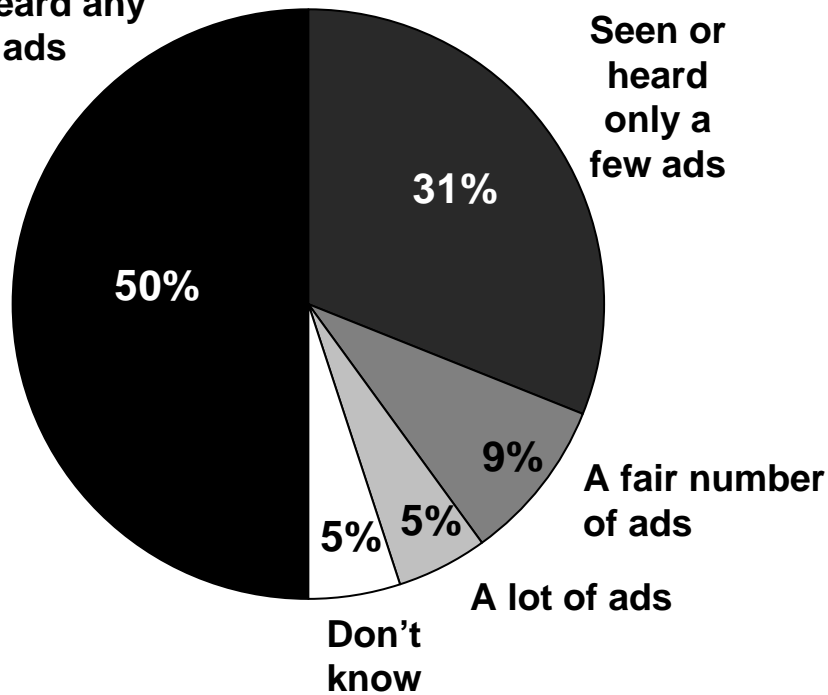
*Among those who are married

Attention to and Perceptions of Ads About Benefit

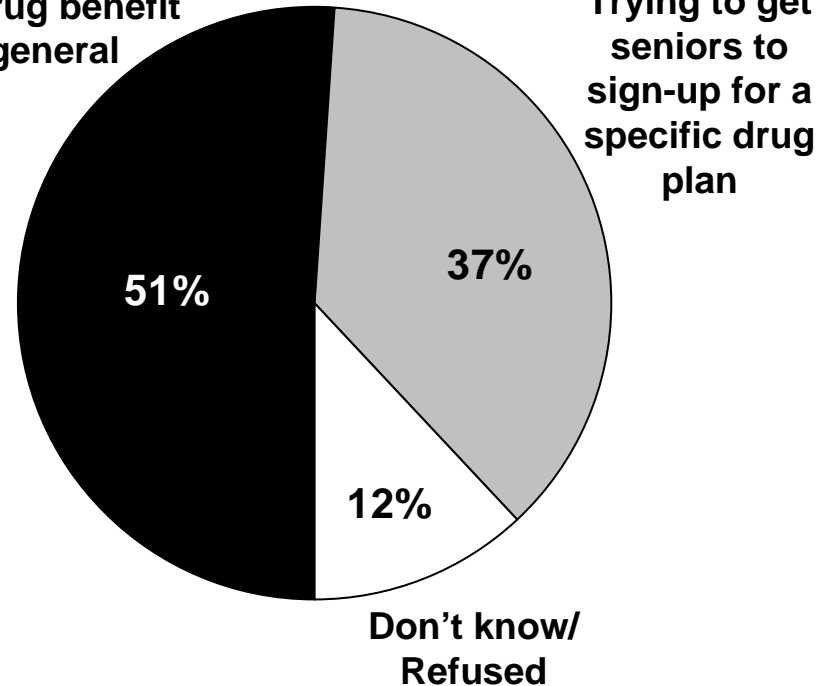
Have you seen or heard any television or radio ads about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or not?

Among the 45% who have seen or heard ads: Percent who say, in general, most of the ads were mainly about...

Have not seen or heard any ads

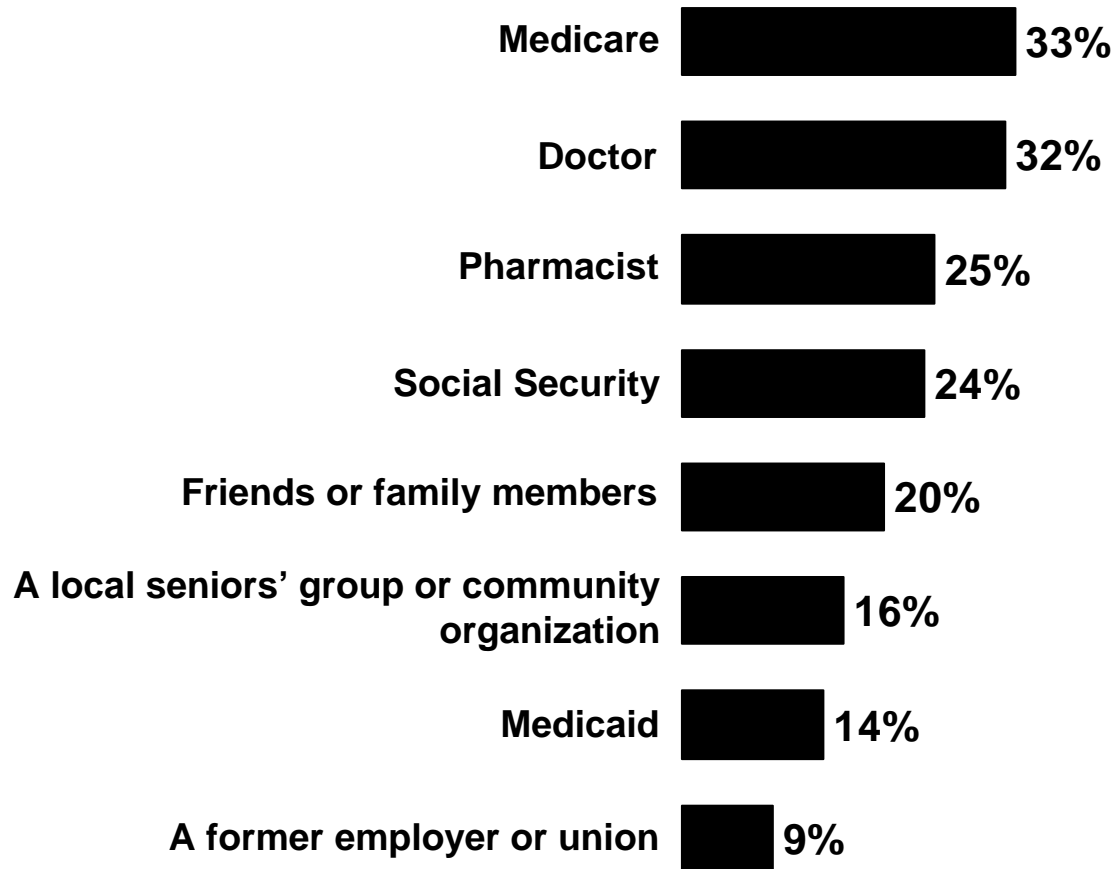


Trying to educate seniors about the new drug benefit in general



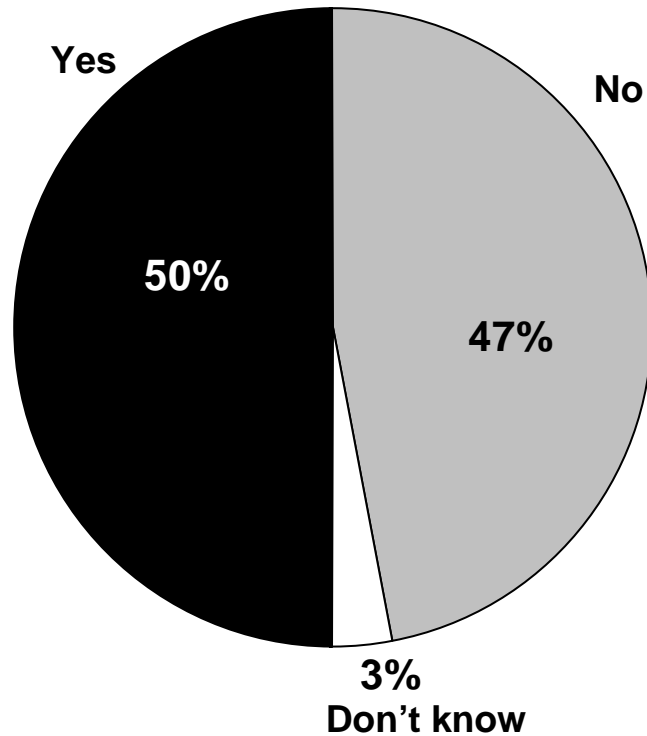
Reported Sources For Help In Deciding Whether to Enroll

Percent of seniors who say they would be “very” likely to turn to each of the following for help in deciding whether to enroll in a Medicare drug plan...

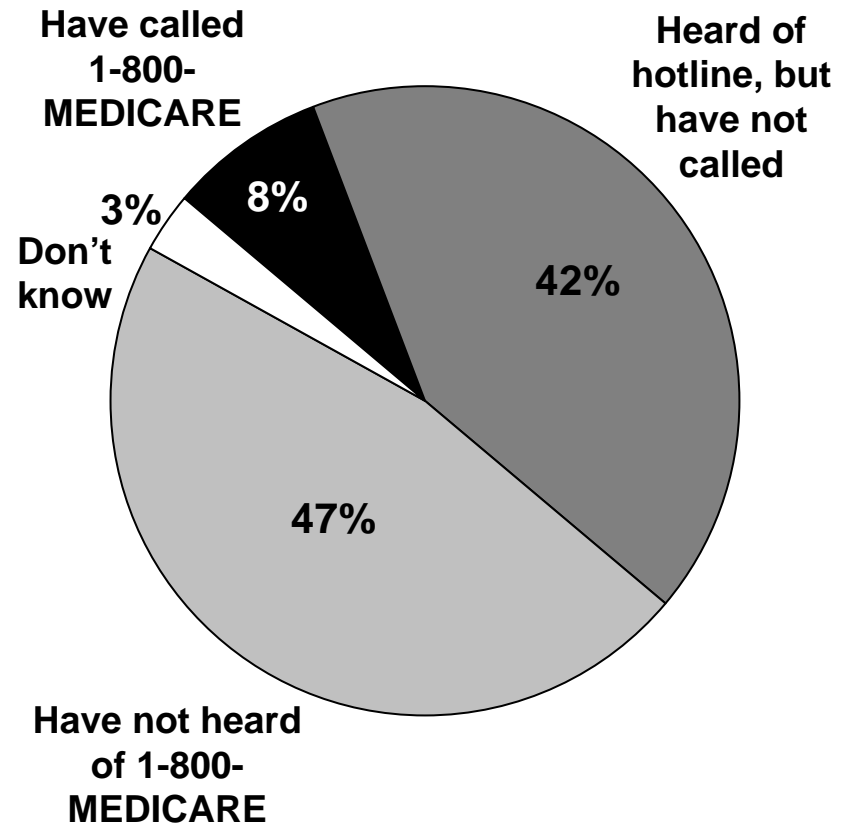


Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-Medicare

Have you heard of a toll-free phone number, 1-800-MEDICARE, that you can call to get information about Medicare?

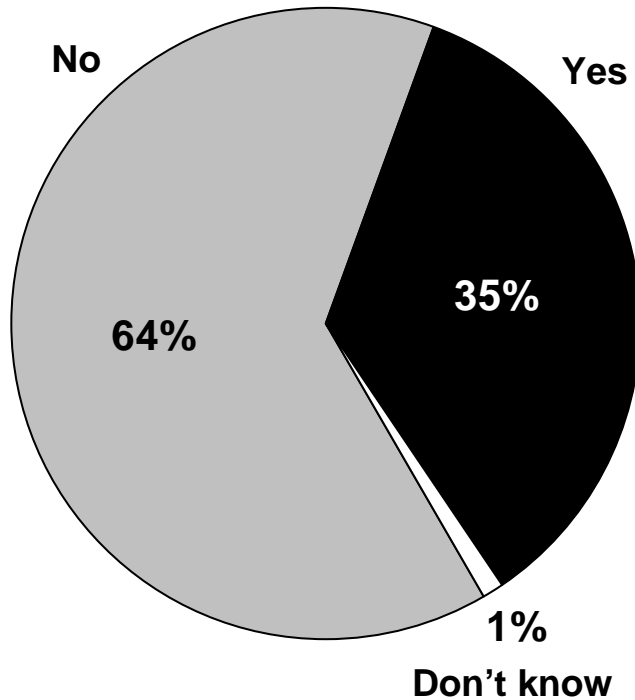


Have you ever called 1-800-MEDICARE?

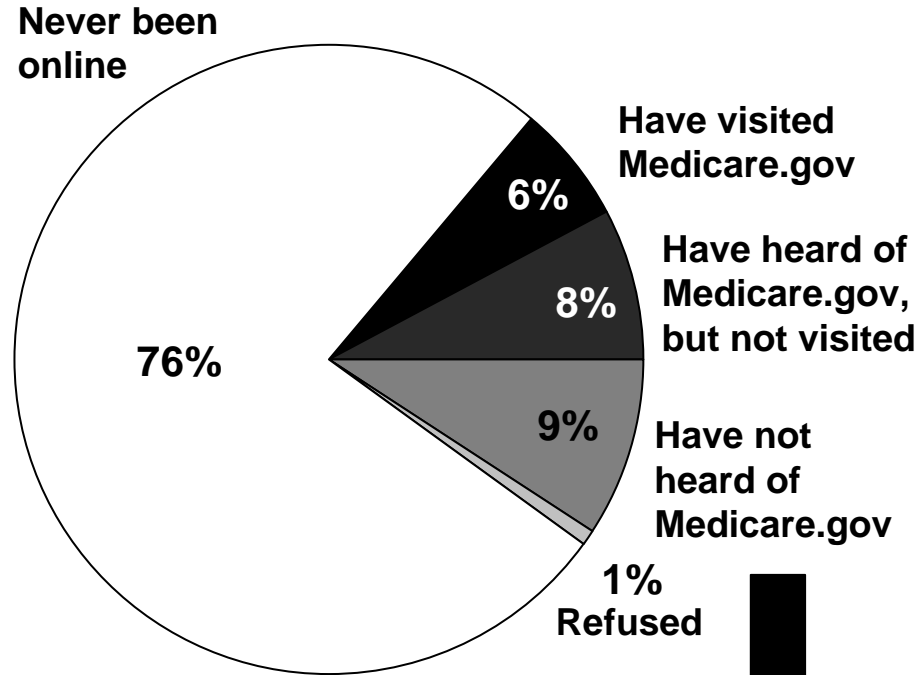


Reported Awareness and Use of Medicare.gov

Have you heard of the website Medicare.gov?



Have you ever looked for information on Medicare.gov?

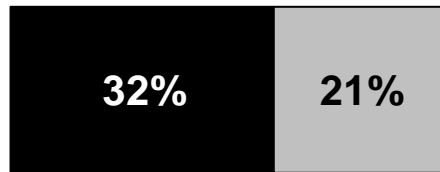


23% of seniors have been online to use the internet

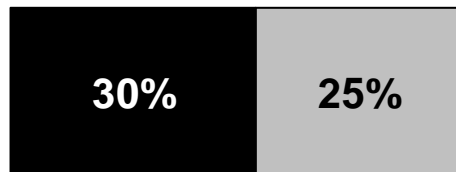
Help From Doctors and Pharmacists

How likely is it that your doctor/pharmacist would spend time helping you decide how to choose the best Medicare drug plan?

Very likely
 Somewhat likely



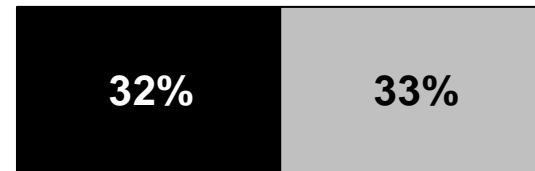
Doctor



Pharmacist

How knowledgeable do you think your doctor/pharmacist would be about the different Medicare drug plans that will be available?

Very knowledgeable
 Somewhat knowledgeable





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